American industries have done. This step has benefitted these countries by transferring military technology culture to civil industry.

(b) Civil industry can vavail the technologies and expertise available at the defence laboratories not only for producing items required for defence but also for using the know-how for producing civil products as well. The availability will of course depend upon the present load experienced by the particular laboratory.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Indo-German Advisory Group

3821. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Indo-German Advisory Group to evolve formula for aid ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Non-Encashment of Letter of Credit.

3822. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters to the erstwhile Soviet Union are facing difficulties due to non-encashment of letters of credit;

(b) whether the Government have rejected the plea of exporters for encashment letter of credit;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to remove the difficulties of exporters and to arrange for the outstanding payments to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Reserve Bank of India was constrained to hold in abeyance operations of the accounts in India of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR. Consequently, reimbursement of payments to exporters was stopped on 27.12.91. This resulted in some degree of uncertainty in the export climate to Russia. Subsequently the following arrangement were worked out to facilitate payments in respect of trade commitments already made by Indian exporters. The Reserve Bank of India agreed to settle the replenishment claims from authorised dealers in India, maintaining the accounts of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR, in respect of (i) goods shipped upto 31st December, 1991; (ii) goods shipped after 31st December, 1991 but not later than 31st March, 1992, against Letters of Credit already opened by banks in the erstwhile Soviet Union and advised to the Indian exporters upto 31st December, (iii) payment due to India project exporters upto 31 December, 1991 and duly certified for payment by the employers.

[*Translation*]

Restructuring of Central Board of Excise and Customs

3823. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: